

	Current ISTEP+	New ISTEP+
Timing of Test Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning of the school year - middle to end of September Encouraged schools to start earlier in summer for catch-up and review Created disadvantage for low-income students who have fewer educational opportunities in the summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of the school year – early March and late April to early May Will allow schools to prepare students for the entire school year Will level the playing field for all students by assessing progress after a full year of study
Subjects Tested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English/language arts, writing, mathematics in grades 3-8; science in grades 5 and 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English/language arts, writing, mathematics in grades 3-8; science in grades 5 and 7; social studies in grades 4, 6 and 8
Return of Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers and parents received feedback on academic progress of previous school year approximately seven months after the end of that school year and three months after the start of the next school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers and parents will receive feedback on academic progress before the school year is completed and approximately three months before the next school year begins
Usefulness of Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective teachers learn little or nothing about their students that they do not already know from having their students in class for over three months Results received in December of current year are based on standards from the previous school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers will receive information about their incoming students before the school year begins Results of previous year will be available before the start of the next school year and can be used for program evaluation, classroom placement and curriculum planning
High School Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduation Qualifying Exam tests skills up to 9th grade math and English standards Tests administered at the beginning of 10 grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of Course Exams will require mastery of three key subjects: Algebra I, Biology I and English 10 Tests administered at the completion of each respective course
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$31 million/year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$29.5 million/year for two years; \$28.5 million/year for next two years

ISTEP+ Assessment Transition Timeline

The ISTEP+ that occurred last month tested the academic standards learned during the 2006-2007 school year.

Testing for Standards learned during the 2007-2008 Academic Year (current school year)

September 15-26, 2008 ISTEP Administration Window

December 1, 2008 Target Date for Returning ISTEP+ Results to Schools

Testing for Standards learned during the 2008-2009 Academic Year (next school year)

March 2-11, 2009 Writing Assessment Testing Window

April 27-May 6, 2009 Progress Assessment Testing Window

August 2009 Assessment Results Returned to Schools and Families¹

Testing for Standards learned during the 2009-2010 Academic Year (two school years from now)

March 1-10, 2010 Writing Assessment Testing Window

April 26-May 5, 2010 Progress Assessment Testing Window

May 21, 2010 Assessment Results Available On-Line to Schools and Families

June 1, 2010 Paper Reports Returned to Schools

ISTEP will take place during both semesters of the 2008-2009 school year. Testing in the fall of 2008 is required by federal and state law to assess the material students learned during this school year (2007-2008). Testing in the Spring of 2009 is required by federal and state law to assess the material students learned during that current school year (2008-2009). There will not be another year during which two exams will be required.

¹ Return of results delayed one time only due to transition issues.